



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OPERATION ICY HOT

FIVE MEN, WOMEN SENTENCED IN METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that four men and one woman have been sentenced for their roles in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

“Today’s successful conclusion is a result of Operation Icy Hot, a massive investigation involving nearly 100 individuals who were importing high-quality methamphetamine into the metro area,” Schlozman said. “This conspiracy involved a shipment of approximately two pounds of methamphetamine that was brought from San Diego, Calif., to be distributed in the Kansas City area.”

Armando Rodela-Aguilar, 44, a citizen of Mexico residing in Kansas City, and **Angela Rose Fennell**, 25, of City Heights, Calif., were sentenced in separate appearances before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this afternoon. **Rodela-Aguilar** was sentenced to 12 years and seven months in federal prison without parole. **Fennell** was sentenced to one year and eight months in federal prison without parole.

Reyes Guadalupe Martinez-Ruiz, 30, and **Joel Castro-Gaxiola**, 41, both citizens of Mexico residing in California, and **Arturo Navarrete-Silva**, 40, a citizen of Mexico residing in Kansas City, were sentenced yesterday. **Martinez-Ruiz** was sentenced to 17 years and six months in federal prison without parole. **Castro-Gaxiola** was sentenced to 12 years and seven months in federal prison without parole. **Navarrete-Silva** was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison without parole.

Rodela-Aguilar, **Castro-Gaxiola** and **Martinez-Ruiz** were convicted by a federal jury on Nov. 30, 2005, for participating in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine between Feb. 20 and March 3, 2005. They were also found guilty of possession with intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine.

Castro-Gaxiola and **Martinez-Ruiz** were also found guilty of interstate travel in aid of a racketeering enterprise (the distribution of methamphetamine) and of illegally reentering the United States after having been deported. **Castro-Gaxiola** was deported on Oct. 26, 2004, and **Martinez-Ruiz** was deported on July 4, 2004.

Navarrette-Silva pleaded guilty on Nov. 22, 2005, to his role in the conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. **Fennell** pleaded guilty on July 18, 2005, to interstate travel in aid of a racketeering enterprise (the distribution of methamphetamine).

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael S. Oliver. It was investigated by the Kansas City Metropolitan Drug Task Force and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html